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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for storing and retrieving digital data within a hardware platform, the method comprising:

receiving data bits across a bus, the data bits forming a bit pattern;

altering the bit pattern of the data bits;

storing the altered data bits;

restoring the altered data bits to the bit pattern; and

outputting the restored data bits, wherein

the altering comprises one of selectively inverting bits in selected bit positions of the data bits and selectively scrambling bits in the selected bit positions of the data bits to prevent unauthorized use of the data bits.

2-4. (Canceled).

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the altering step and the restoring step are performed by a hard disk drive interface.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the altering is unique to the hardware platform.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the altering is unique to a plurality of hardware platforms.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the altering is based upon a serial number of the hardware platform.

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9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
generating a random number upon power-up of the hardware platform,
wherein the altering is based upon the random number.

10-11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently amended) An apparatus for storing and retrieving digital video data, comprising:

a system bus configured to transfer data bits, the data bits forming a bit pattern;
an interface coupled to the system bus and configured to alter the bit pattern of

the data bits; and

a hard disk drive coupled to the interface and configured to store the altered data bits, wherein

the interface is configured to alter the bit pattern by one of selectively inverting bits in selected bit positions of the data bits and selectively scrambling bits in the selected bit positions of the data bits to prevent unauthorized use of the data bits.

13-16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the interface is further configured to alter the bit pattern of the data bits in a manner that is unique to the apparatus.

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the interface is further configured to alter the bit pattern of the data bits in a manner that is unique to a plurality of apparatuses.

19. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the interface is further configured to alter the bit pattern of the data bits based upon a serial number of the apparatus.

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20. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

a processor coupled to the system bus and configured to generate a random number during power-up of the apparatus,

wherein the interface is further configured to alter the bit pattern of the data bits based upon the random number.

21-32. (Canceled).

33. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for storing and retrieving digital video data within a hardware platform, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving data bits across a bus, the data bits forming a bit pattern;

altering the bit pattern of the data bits by one of ~~selectively~~ inverting bits in selected bit positions of the data bits and ~~selectively~~ scrambling bits in the selected bit positions of the data bits to prevent unauthorized use of the data bits;

storing the altered data bits;

restoring the altered data bits to the bit pattern; and

outputting the restored data bits.

34-36 (Canceled).

37. (Original) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the altering step and the restoring step are performed by a hard disk drive interface.

38. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the altering is unique to the hardware platform.

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39. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the altering is unique to a plurality of hardware platforms.

40. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the altering is based upon a serial number of the hardware platform.

41. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the one or more processors further perform:
generating a random number upon power-up of the hardware platform,
wherein the altering is based upon the random number.

42. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium according to claim 33, wherein the altered data bits are stored on a hard disk drive.

43. (Canceled).

44. (Currently amended) An apparatus for storing and retrieving digital video data within a hardware platform, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving data bits across a bus, the data bits forming a bit pattern;
means for altering the bit pattern of the data bits by one of ~~selectively~~ inverting bits in selected bit positions of the data bits and ~~selectively~~ scrambling bits in the selected bit positions of the data bits to prevent unauthorized use of the data bits;
means for storing the altered data bits;
means for restoring the altered data bits to the bit pattern; and
means for outputting the restored data bits.

45-47 (Canceled).

48. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the means for altering the bit pattern of the data bits is configured to alter the data bits in a manner that is unique to the hardware platform.

49. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the means for altering the bit pattern of the data bits is configured to alter the data bits in a manner that is unique to a plurality of hardware platforms.

50. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 44, wherein the means for altering the bit pattern of the data bits is configured to alter the data bits based upon a serial number of the hardware platform.

51. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 44, further comprising:

means for generating a random number upon power-up of the hardware platform, wherein the means for altering the bit pattern of the data bits is configured to alter the data bits based upon the random number.

52-53. (Canceled).

54. (Previously presented) A method for storing and retrieving digital data within a hardware platform, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of data bits, the data bits forming a bit pattern;

altering the bit pattern by inverting bits in a first selection of bit positions of the data bits;

storing the altered bit pattern on a medium;

retrieving the stored altered bit pattern from the medium;

restoring the altered bit pattern by inverting the bits of the first selection of bit positions of the retrieved bit pattern; and

outputting the restored bit pattern.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the first selection of bit positions are unique to the hardware platform.

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56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the first selection of bit positions are based on a serial number of the hardware platform.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein the first selection of bit positions are based on a random number.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 54, wherein:
the altering further comprises scrambling bits of a second selection of bit positions of the bit pattern, and
the restoring further comprises unscrambling the bits of the second selection of bit positions of the retrieved altered bit pattern.

59. (Previously presented) A method for storing and retrieving digital data within a hardware platform, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of data bits, the data bits forming a bit pattern;
altering the bit pattern by scrambling bits of selected bit positions of the data bits;
storing the altered bit pattern on a medium;
retrieving the stored altered bit pattern from the medium;
restoring the altered bit pattern by unscrambling the bits of the selected bit positions of the retrieved bit pattern; and
outputting the restored bit pattern.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the selected bit positions are unique to the hardware platform.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the selected bit positions are based on a serial number of the hardware platform.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the selected bit positions are based on a random number.